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REPORT OF "TAR" AND NICOTINE CONTENT OF  
THE SMOKE OF 130 VARIETIES OF CIGARETTES  
March, 1972

The Federal Trade Commission's laboratory has determined the "tar" (dry particulate matter) and total alkaloid (reported as nicotine) content of 130 varieties of cigarettes. The laboratory utilized the Cambridge filter method with the following specifications as set forth in the Commission's announcement of July 31, 1967:

1. Smoke cigarettes to a 23 mm. butt length, or to the length of the filter and overwrap plus 3 mm. if in excess of 23 mm.,
2. Base results on a test of 100 cigarettes per brand, or type,
3. Cigarettes to be tested will be selected on a random basis, as opposed to "weight selection",
4. Determine particulate matter on a "dry" basis employing the gas chromatography method published by C. H. Sloan and B. J. Sublett in Tobacco Science 9, page 70, 1965, as modified by F. J. Schultz' and A. W. Spears' report published in Tobacco Vol. 162, No. 24, page 32, dated June 17, 1966, to determine the moisture content,
5. Determine and report the "tar" content after subtracting moisture and alkaloids (as nicotine) from particulate matter.

Concerning the 130 varieties tested, 26 were capable of being smoked to 23 mm. or to an average range of between 23 and 24 mm. The butt lengths of the other 104 varieties tested range from 23 mm to an average of between 38.6 and 40.6 mm. The butt lengths of 56 of the 130 varieties tested exceeded 30 mm.

The samples used were obtained by attempting to purchase two pages of each variety of cigarettes during September of 1971 in each of 50 geographic locations throughout the country. All locations and in these instances, one or more additional packages of cigarettes were purchased in those geographic locations where the respective varieties were available. The samples utilized in the test were representative of the 130 varieties of cigarettes as available throughout the country at the time of purchase.

In the Table listing the cigarette varieties in alphabetical order the "tar" content is reported to the nearest 1/10 milligram and the nicotine to the nearest 1/100 milligram, each with appropriate statistical values. The average weight is reported in grams per cigarette and the butt length range to the nearest 1/10 millimeter. In all other tables the average weight and butt length columns and the figures representing the standard deviation of the mean have been eliminated; the "tar" figures have been rounded off to whole numbers and nicotine figures to tenths of milligrams. Two tables respectively list varieties in increasing order of "tar" values and in increasing order of nicotine values, the other two lists tabulate the current and four previous tests. Accordingly, "tar" and nicotine figures in these tables and lists represent rounded off averages without indication of their precision.